

**WENHAM COUNCIL ON AGING
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 11, 2005**

Attending:

Board Members: Jack Hauck, Luci Lynch, Kit Richardson, Jane Richardson and Merle Welsh

Associate Members: Marion D'Ambrosio, Barbara Morrell and John Suminsby
COA Director Trudy Reid and Van Supervisor John Marks

Guests: Jean and Dick Eddy, Ann Geikie and Mary Kelly

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 P.M. by Chairman Hauck. With deep regret, he announced that former Board Member Ken Premo, had died last night.

Minutes of the Meeting of September 13, 2005, were accepted as submitted.

Committee Reports:

TRIPS Jane Richardson reported that 45 people took part in the recent trip to Foxwoods, and all enjoyed a good time. Unfortunately, the trip to the Topsfield Fair was cancelled, due to lack of interest. Upcoming is a "Christmas in the Country " Holiday Trip and Luncheon on December 6th, at \$56 per person. Fliers were distributed, and anyone interested should contact Jane. Unfortunately, she has been unable to schedule a foliage trip this year, because of recent changes in bus company policy regarding payments etc. In closing Jane noted the Enon Village Christmas Fair will be held on Saturday, November 5th, from 9A.M. to 1 P.M.

VAN: John Marks distributed the van statistics. He noted that they have been very busy of late, perhaps due to the cost of gas. (The Director commented that she had been questioned by the newspaper as to whether gas prices had resulted in less trips being offered. She was happy to report that is not the case.) John reported that there are three new drivers on the Sub-list: Greg Young, Butch Crosby and Bill Jenkins. There were four new riders this month, and donations amounted to \$161. Gas usage was 105.1 gallons. Medical Visits continue to be the major usage, and John noted that Van Fliers are being prominently displayed in local Doctor's Offices. In response to a question, John stated that a training session for drivers, in the use of medical equipment is being set up with the Fire Chief.

DIRECTOR * *Budget:* The COA's yearly budget is \$5000. As of the end of the 1st quarter, we have spent \$1,100-\$1,200. If we continue at this rate we will be in good shape. However, as the monthly newsletter continues to expand, the cost of printing will increase. Trudy is presently watching this. Each mailing costs about \$140, and as more seniors are added, the once a month timing may have to be cut back.

**Coffees:* The Saturday Coffees are up and running again. Guest Speaker on October 15th will be Maridee Feeherry, from North Shore Nutrition Services, whose topic will be "Unraveling the Mysteries of Weight Control". The speaker on November 5th will be

Town Administrator, Jeff Chelgren, who will talk about the results of the recent Town Meeting. November 19th Sally Blais, from Visiting Angels is scheduled. At the moment Dec. 3rd is open, and on December 17th Chief of Police Ken Walsh is expected. Arrangements have been made for the Town's Custodian to set up the tables on Friday and return the room to normal on Monday mornings.

**Newsletter:* The October Newsletter included information on the new Medicare Part D program and fuel assistance - 599 copies were mailed. We have an increase of about 50 new seniors.

**Outreach Efforts:* Because of an increase in responsibilities, Trudy has asked to be removed from being a Van Dispatcher during her days in the Office, and Jeff has agreed. It is her hope that this will make more time available for visits to seniors.

**Programs for the Coming Year:* A seminar on Medicare Part D is scheduled for November 10th at 10 A.M. at the Hamilton-Wenham Library. This is jointly sponsored by both Wenham and Hamilton COAs and light refreshments will be served. Anyone willing to provide a "breakfast goodie", should contact Trudy. The Director also suggested we try a drop-in time here at the Center in the future. Perhaps with coffee, games, social time, etc. one day a week, either on a morning or afternoon. She would appreciate comments.

**SHINE:* The Director reported she received one call as a result of the Chronicle article seeking Volunteers for the program. She passed the name on to the SHINE Regional Director, who then informed her a Wenham man had called SHINE directly, and may wish to volunteer. She will keep us updated.

**TRIAD:* The next meeting of the TRIAD Council will be held on Monday Oct. 17th at the Maples Carriage House. at 10:00 A.M. File of Life cards will be distributed. TRIAD will also be participating in the School Health Fair on October 26th from 2:00 - 4:00. The Fair runs from 10:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.

**Website Update:* The Director has been unable to contact Officer Gray who will be assisting with this project, as he has been on the Midnight shift. She will continue try. Following the Director's Report, the Chairman urged everyone to talk to as many people as possible about the November 10th program at the Library on Medicare Part B. This is a VERY confusing addition to Medicare, with serious financial ramifications if Seniors do not look carefully at their options!..

Old Business

Holiday Plants: There is a great need for Volunteers to assist with this program. Someone is needed to spearhead the program, as well as volunteer drivers. Last year 172 plants were distributed. Trudy has all the information available and will help as much as she can in her limited time. Anyone willing to help should contact Trudy, before the next meeting.

New Members: All potential members present stated they had reviewed the material distributed at the last meeting and were willing to serve on the Board. Five people have volunteered. The Board has three openings for Full Members, and an unlimited number of Associate Members. Following this meeting an Executive Session will vote on this item.

New Business

Art Committee:

The Chairman commented on the improved appearance of this Building. It has been

suggested that adding art work to the walls, would further enhance the room. Kit Richardson agreed to take on this project, perhaps featuring an "artist of the month" She will speak to Emily Sterns at the Wenham Museum about methods of displaying the works. Luci Lynch agreed to assist her.

Budget Committee: The Chairman proposed the creation of a Budget Committee to keep tabs on spending for such items as Trips, Supplies, Social events, Coffees etc. and generally advise the Board on finances. At least three people would be needed. Monthly meetings are a possibility. Anyone interested in serving on the Budget Committee should contact Trudy before the November 8th Meeting.

Center Research Committee: The Chairman commented that since the failure of the Town Hall Articles at the recent Town Meeting, it would seem there may be some time before the Recreation Building could conceivably be turned over to the the COA. That being the case, the Chairman feels it would be wise to start searching for another building, that the Council could have for its own use. He noted that at the present time we usually fill this room for the Saturday Coffee Hours, and parking makes any thought of a Drop-in Center on a week day, very difficult to contemplate. A Search Committee should be formed to investigate and consider other spots, and report back to the Board. Such a Committee would not require a great deal of time, and would serve a needed purpose. Anyone interested in participating should contact Jack or Trudy.

Program Preparation: The Council needs manpower! There are so many wonderful things the Council could do for Seniors if more help were available! Our Director is only allowed 19 hours per week of work, and present duties take up the major share. Help is needed for legwork, research, and suggestions etc. Please CALL if you can be of any assistance.

Overnight Trips: Since Gladys Robertson is no longer a Board Member, the planning and overseeing of Overnight Trips is in limbo. Jane Richardson does not want to take this on. She will, however, plan for a Nantucket Trip next fall. The Board discussed whether or not to even continue to offer these trips. It was noted that they are becoming very expensive, and interest does not seem to be high. The Board needs to give this matter some thought.

The Meeting adjourned at 3:11 P.M. and went into Executive Session.

Next Meeting: **November 8, 2005**
Lucille Lynch
Secretary